

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 remain pending in the application. Claims 2-4 have been cancelled without prejudice as Applicants may wish to prosecute the subject matter of these claims in future applications. New Claims 21 and 22 have been presented for consideration. Reconsideration of the rejections set forth in the aforementioned Office Action is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments, new claims and following remarks. The basis for these amendments and new claims can be found throughout the specification, claims and drawings as originally filed.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's findings that "Claims 11-20 are allowed over the prior art of record." Additionally, Claims 2-4 and 7-10 stand objected to as "being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims." Amended Claim 1 and new Claims 21 and 22 correspond to Claims 2, 3 and 4, respectively, rewritten in independent form. Further, because Claims 7-9 depend directly from independent Claims 1 and 22, rewritten in independent form, they are at least as limited, are similarly not taught by the cited art, and should also be in condition for allowance.¹ Accordingly, amended Claims 1 and 7-9, Claim 10, and new Claims 21 and 22 should all be in condition for allowance.

¹ Claim 10 depends directly from Claim 9, and thus, depends indirectly from Claim 1.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 5 and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Wiatt et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,382,760. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's characterization that Applicants' claimed invention is rendered anticipated by Wiatt et al. In view of Applicants' amendments to independent Claim 1, it is believed that the above rejection has been overcome. In particular, and as set forth by the Examiner, Applicants submit that Wiatt et al. does not teach, disclose or suggest "jaw member being retracted away from said finish when said first and second mold sections traverse to a fully open condition" as recited in amended independent Claim 1. There is no motivation or incentive in Wiatt et al., alone or in combination with any of the other references cited, to arrive at Applicants' invention as claimed.

While it is Applicants' view that the claims as written are not anticipated in light of the cited art and fully comply with Section 102, in the interest of expediting prosecution and without prejudice to pursuing this and related subject matter in future applications, Applicants have amended independent Claim 1. Further, because Claims 5 and 6 depend directly from Claim 1, they are at least as limited, are similarly not taught by Wiatt et al., and should also be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and these remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the Section 102 rejection to Claims 1, 5 and 6.

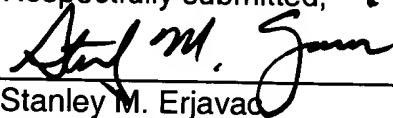
CONCLUSION

All the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, he is invited to contact the undersigned at his earliest convenience.

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